

SECRET

DD/A 75-0329

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

Ed:

1. My purpose in writing you is to raise certain matters pertaining to the SAFE program, pass on certain understandings I possess, and then suggest, on the basis of this memo, that you and I sit down and chat about the matters I raise.

2. By virtue of recent conversations between CRS and OJCS personnel, wherein CRS has requested some proposals from OJCS to assist in the development of SAFE, I am of the opinion that it appears now that greater participation by OJCS is desired than was originally planned. There is some reason to believe that this may have come about as a result of conversations with what I refer to as the "feasibility panel." The fact of the matter, however, as it pertains to considerable OJCS participation in this undertaking, is that we are faced with an unprogrammed personnel authorization situation. As we both know, the Director has successfully prevailed upon OMB to include a \$5 million entry for SAFE in FY'76. I am not aware at this time, however, of any provision anyone has made for the additional personnel authorizations necessary to undertake the systems design responsibility, let alone at a later date, the operating responsibility. OJCS personnel inform me that during the developmental phase, as they understand what is requested of them by CRS, it will take a minimum of fifteen additional people to serve the requirement. I do know I do not have that ceiling. This is the first problem area.

3. The second area I would raise for discussion is--to what do we look as the end product of the "feasibility panel" exercise. When the idea of this panel first originated, and we brought the issue up at your last briefing of the DCI on SAFE, it was my point and also understanding that a group of qualified individuals would have the SAFE concept explained to them and they, in turn, would render a judgment as to whether the concept seemed possible of implementation. This judgment would then be considered by the appropriate people, to include the DCI. If my understanding of what indeed was our proposal is correct, it would further seem to me we should have that panel's judgment in hand before we commence definitive action to undertake the development of SAFE.

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4. OJCS has considered that which was requested of them by CRS and is prepared to present a proposal. I am a bit reticent to have that proposal go forward, however, for fear it will be interpreted as a commitment by OJCS, until you and I have the discussion on the matters I raise in this paper.

5. I await your pleasure to sit down and pursue this issue.

John F. Blake
~~John F. Blake~~

John F. Blake
Deputy Director
for
Administration

cc: D/OJCS

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